Application No. 10/716,429 Inventor Yasuyuki NOMIZU et al. Preliminary Amendment

Remarks

Prior to an examination on the merits, Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments to the specification and the drawings.

Specifically, as shown in the attached replacement sheets, Applicants have amended Figures 9, 10, and 11 to correct typographical errors. Specifically, Applicants have amended Step S28 in Figure 9, Step S15 in Figure 10, and Steps S35 and S28 in Figure 11 to reverse "YES" and "NO" designations, as appropriate.

Applicants have further amended the specification to correct typographical errors, and so as to be consistent with the corrected drawings.

Applicants respectfully request early and favorable consideration on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,

MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number 22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220 (OSMMN 08/03)

GJM:PH:tdm I:\atty\PH\24s\245721\245721 PRELIM AMEND.DOC Gregory J. Maier Attorney of Record Registration No. 25,599 Philip J. Hoffmann

Registration No. 46,640